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# NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

TOPICS OF GENERAL INTEREST. ABSENTEEISM IN CONGRESS-HOWGATE'S FLIGHT FROM JUSTICE-DISTRESSING CASE OF ABDUC-

Some idea of the extent to which the public business is neglected by some members of Congress is given by a Washington correspondent, who suggests that an enforcement of the law regarding absentees would be productive of some pecuniary benefit to the country. Captain Howgate is still at large; a reward of \$500 will be offered for his capture. A distressing case of abduction is reported from Wisconsin.

CONGRESSMEN ABSENT FROM CONGRESS. BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, April 16 .- "I see that Mayor Nolan, of Albany, is in town," remarked one of a group

of Congressmen last evening. "Yes," remark d another, "Mike Nolan has a very good thing of it; he is Mayor of Albany with a salary of \$4,500 a year, and Congressman with a salary of \$5,000 a year."

A TRIBUNE correspondent who is a daily observer of the proceedings of the House of Representatives could not recall that he had ever been present when Nolan was at his post as a legislator, and he therefore supposed that Mr. Nolan had been constantly absent by leave of the House. A careful examination of The Record, however, shows that Mr. Nolan has actually been present in the House several times this session, and his name is recorded on at least four yea and nay votes. Yea and nay votes were, however, recorded on the following dates, and the record shows that on none of these occasions did Mr. Nolan vote: January 17, 24, 25, 26, 30, 31; February 6, 7, 14, 16, 17, 21; March 9, 13, 21. On February 14 the Irish resolutions were voted on and Mr. Nolan's name was not recorded, although he is an Irish-

In the The Congressional Directory Mr. Nolan is described as "the surviving member of the firm of Quinn & Nolan, ale brewers of Albany, and also the president and treasurer of the Beverwyck Lager-beer Brewing Company." Nevertheless on February 6, when his party friends in the House were voting solidly against the passage of the Alcohelic Liquor Commission bill, the record does not show that Mr. Nolan was present. Neither do the official records of the House show that Mr. Nolan has been absent a day since the session began, by leave of the House. He has never taken the trouble to ask, it appears. Probably he has never taken the trouble to read the following section of the Revised Statutes of the United States: non of the Kevised Statutes of the United States:

Section 40.—The Secretary of the Senate and Sergenutat-Arms of the House, respectively, shall defined from the mouthly payments of each member or delegate the amount of his salary for each day that he has been absent from the Senate or House, respectively, unless such member or delegate assums as the reason for such sheare the sickness of himself or of some member of his family.

This law has been on the statute book since the year 1856. A good many other memoers of the liouse of Representatives beside Mr. Nolan have probably forgotten this law, and especial attention is directed to his case only because it is flagrant, hardly a day passes without one or more members asking and obtaining leave of absence without assigning any reason. Nobody has yet heard of a member who has suffered any loss of pay on this account. In the first two weeks of this month leave of absence was granted to twenty-one different members, as follows:

Date.

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14th-Cox (W. R.)	NC	week		.Business.
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It will be observed that in the last two weeks 123 days were granted-21 days on account of illness, 41 on account of important business, and 61 without any reasons assigned. If the law were to observed pay would be deducted for 102 days, and the Government would save about \$1,500 by the operation. Since the beginning of this session 188 leaves of absence have been granted, averaging about six days each, or 1.128 days in all. Probably one-sixth of these have been granted on account of the sickness of members or their families, leaving say 940 days for which strict obedience to the plain requirement of the law above quoted would require pay to be withheld. Should this be done the Government would save about \$13,000. A good many Congressmen who come to Washington, and remain during the session attending to their duties, agree in the opinion that the law should either be enforced or repealed. There is less absenteeism this session than there was in the last Congress; but the facts above given show that the XLVIIth Congress is far from biameless. Of course the record of leaves of absence granted by the House does not by any means disclose all the actual absenteeism, perhaps not even the largest part. When members absent themselves without leave, as many of them do, sometimes for days and weeks together, the official record does not show the fact except on rare occasions when a "call of the House" is ordered. Should this be done the Government would save

#### HOWGATE STILL AT LARGE. BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, April 16 .- Captain Howgate has not been heard from since his escape. His friends have represented to the authorities that he will return when the time to be fixed for his trial approaches, and will not seek to evade trial, but that be will neither surrender himself nor be found until that time. They say in his behalf that he is entitled to a speedy trial, and that the probable postponement until next fall or winter, with bail fixed so high that it is unattainable, is a denial of justice and of the rights of the citizens.

The officials do not credit these representations If there are any doubts of Captain Howgate's guilt, or any mitigating circumstances in connection with almost certain to result in conviction and imprisonment; hence it is not thought probable that the prisoner will ever voluntarily surrender himself. A reward of \$500 will probably be offered for his

Captain Howgate's escape has been made the oceasion for an attack upon Marshal Henry, the allegation being that he is responsible for it. As a matter of fact, Marshal Henry did not know of the order of the Court, giving permission for the priscourt of the Court, giving permission for the pris-ciser to visit his home, multil a ter he had escaped. Had the order been brought to his personal atten-tion, instead of to that of his deputy, he could not have done otherwise than earry it out, sending a bailiff along to guard the prisoner. The bailiff who was caught napping on this occasion has been many years in his position, where he has earned the repu-lation of a careful man.

#### A CHILD STOLEN FROM HIS PARENTS.

INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. Washington, April 16 .- The Sunday Herald of

this city contains the following: An abduction case has just came to light, which Dearly parallels the famous one of Charley Ross. It has been kept a profound secret both by the parents of the stolen child and by Pinkerton's detectives, who have been on his trail. It seems that Jay A. Hubbeil, of Michigan, the Chairman of the National Republican Committee, resides with the National Republican Committee, resides with his wife and family at a small town in Wisconsin. They had a bright six-year-old boy, Willie. Mr. Dick-inson had some trouble with the rougher element of the town, who swore that they would eventually be revenged on him, but he paid no attention to their threats. About the 1st of November his son Willie suddenly disappeared; and, up to the pres-ent time, not a glimpee have they had of him. Mrs.

Dickinson became almost crazed over the loss of her boy, and for some time refused to be comforted. At last she determined to make an effort and undertake the search in person. A notorious character, named William Morris, was last seen in company with the child, and as he did not return to the town for some time, the supposition was that he was the abductor. Mrs. Dickinson then began a prolonged pursuit that led across the United States, following her child from one place to another, at times being only a few hours behind the fugitives.

The parents of the lost child are acquaintances of Mr. Hubbell, but neither of them are, as stated by The Herald, related to him. Mrs. Dickinson recently came to Washington upon intelligence which gave some hope of finding her son in Virginia. The clew proved to be misleading, and she has returned to her home. Postal agents and others in the Government service have been enlisted in the search, and a reward of \$3,000 has been offered for the discovery and recovery of the lost one.

Washington, April 16 .- The State Departnent publishes in the March number of The Commercial Relations a comprehensive report by Consul-General Merritt, of London, upon the British exports to the United States, embodying tabular statements from all the Consulates in the three kingdoms.

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"Last year's report," writes General Merritt, "exhibited the very large increase in the value of exports from the United Kingdom to the United States of \$93,493,295.90, or a total increase of nearly 95 per cent on the value of the preceding year. This year's compilation from the same source exhibits a decrease of \$33,187,228.31, or nearly 17 per cent, for the year ending September 30, 1881. The decrease was in fourteen Consulates; the increase in eleven. The total value of exports from this kingdom to the United States for the year was \$138,786,061.90."

Detailed reports from all the principal Consulates in Great Britain, describing the condition of commerce, accompany that of General Merritt, and are published with it.

#### TRACED THROUGH A WOMAN.

THE ARREST OF EMANUEL CORTEZ, AN EX-CONVICT

FOR PASSING A NUMBER OF FORGED CHECKS. Emanuel Cortez, a Spaniard, age fifty-five, alias Antonio Gonzales, alias Gravie, a notorious forger and counterfeiter, was arrested Friday night about 11 o'clock at the Grant House, No. 48 New-Bowery, and locked up at Police Headquarters on the charge of swindling various firms in this city by means of forged checks. In the last two months Inspector Byrnes has received some twenty complaints from various firms that a Spaniard of small stature, about fifty years of age, with a small mustache, had swindled them out of sums of money, ranging from \$50 to \$600, by purchasing goods and presenting checks which proved to be forged. On April 1, Mr. Kentwoch, a furniture dealer at No. 5 Henry-st., informed the Inspector that a man of the above description had bought furniture of him to the amount of \$69, and had then offered a check in payment. This was refused, when the Spaniard gave as reference a man named Schoenenberg, at No. 48 Chatham-st. Kentwoch threatened to call the police, when the Spaniard fled, leaving the check. Detectives Healy, Ruland and Hines were put

reach day that he has been and House, respectively, unless to assens as the reason as on the case. They found that Schoenenberg was a pedler, and it was surmised that he was a friend of the Spaniard. Ayoung woman, May Wilson, lived in

## THE LOSS OF THE JEANNETTE.

DANENHOWER'S ACCOUNT OF THE SUFFERING OF

THE CREW-PUMPING FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS. SAN FRANCISCO, April 16 .- The Call to-morrow will publish a letter from Dr. H. C. Ledyard, an American now in Siberia, to a friend in this city. At Irkoutsk Dr. Ledyard met Lieutenant Danenhower, who gave him interesting details of the loss of the Jeannette. The following extracts are made: "Since the first fall they were out, when they were caught by the ice in trying to reach Herald Island, they had never taken a course, but the vessel was held as in the jaws of death squeezed until every timber strained, turned this way and that, thrown floating and then caught again. They were every hour in suspense, never knowing when the ice would close upon them. A little more and the deck sank beneath them. Throughout this strain they were well and tried to be cheerful, working very hard, for the engine and the men were barely able to keep the water out. They had to pump for a year and a half. On June 11, 1881, the crisis came. The ship showed greater straining than before, the deck quivered and inexplicable movements warned them to hasten from the vesse They prepared their boats and made their camp beside mette. She rose and turned in her cradle until the yards touched the ice. Then the rigging gave way and her masts lay prostrate. At 4 o'clock in the morning the floe parted and all went down. A cry of alarm called all to escape from the crevice in the ice. It opened just through the Captain's tent. Then began the cpened just through the Captain's tent. Then began the retreat. For twenty-nine days they struggled southward, 300 miles of broken tee being thus passed over. Four miles a day was thought good fortune. After one series of fourteen days they were twenty-seven miles further north than at first. While working over the ice and dragging three boats they discovered Bennett Island, to explore which they spent three weeks of their precious summer days and expended much of their imprecious summer days and expended much of their limpted supply of food. To this detour those who survived attribute much of their suffering and the death of their commander with nineteen nea. After three months of this perious and exhausting work they came to blue water, and then, with fair winds, took their course for the mouth of the Lena River. Chief Engineer Melville's boat was stove against a block of ice, and the Captain's boat lost her mast and sail. The Captain landed with all well, but abandoned the boat, as the water was shallow."

John, of that State, and will return home to-morrow, with Charles Stackhouse, who is wanted in Hays City Stackhouse is under indictment by the Grand Jury for being implicated in the murder of one Kilpple, a farmer. Stackhouse escaped from Kan-as three years ago.

#### RAILEOAD INTERESTS. A LARGE PURCHASE OF STOCK.

The control of a majority of the stock of the New-York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad Com-

pany. The purchase was made by Mr. Jewett individu ally, but it was in the interest of the company of which It was bought from a "pool" which has been in exist-ence for about a couple of months. Since Monday night the pool committee, composed of William Hooper, Henry Hanna and M. Work, of Cincinnati, have been in this city, and on Saturday night the negotiations with Mr. Jewett were closed and the papers signed. Payment is

The transaction is of great importance to the Erie system, as it secures to that company an outlet to Cin-cinnati and the Southwest. It is expected that in by the Erlanger syndicate will be completed, and a direct line will then be open from Cincinnati to New-Orleans. Mr. Jewett's purchase grew out of the steps taken by W. H. Vauderbilt last year to embarrass the connections of the Eric Road with the West and Southwest. The Vanderbilt western roads were shut to quently secured the control of the Cleveland, Colum Cincinnati and Indianapolis. With the last-named road in hostile hands, the Erio was prevented from reaching and Dayton Road runs from Dayton to Cincinnati, Ohio and Obio Railroad, from Salamanea to Dayton, and which owns one block of 9,200 shares of the former cor poration. Mr. Vanderbilt attempted to consolidate the two lines under the name of the Ohio Railway Company. The Ohio courts decided against the legality of the con-solidation.

The Ohio courts decided against the legality of the consolidation.

About the middle of last February, prior the decison, which, however, had been expected to be adverse to the Vanderbilt interest, the outside stockholders of the Cincinnait, Hamilton and Dayton Road pooled line; a stock for purposes of self-protection. Eventually more than a majority of the \$3,500,000 expital stock of the company was piaced in the pool. On March 30, the pool stockholders authorized the sale of their stock in one block, at par, and a willing purchaser was found in Mr. Jewett. The contract stipulates that 17,501 shares shall be delivered to the purchaser, but Mr. Jewett undertakes to buy an additional amount up to a certain limit, understood to be about 23,000 shares. This surpins stock was admitted to the pool after a majority had been secured.

The next annual meeting of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Company will be held on June 6. It is understood that J. H. Devereux and S. Burke, of Cincinnati, pronounced Vanderbilt directors, will be retired and replaced by Eric men. It is not known what other changes will be made. The remaining directors originally were elected in the interest of the Cieveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis, but if their devotion to the Dayton Road is greater than their sympathy with the Vanderbilt management of the Cieveland Company, many of them may retain their places under the Jewelt control. It is said by Erie people that the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Road will not be manage dhostilely to Mr. Vanderbilt, provided a proper understanding can be reached with him. Mr. Jewett's purchase, they say, was not dietated by any aggressive spirit but only by a desire to protect the Erie's outlet to the Southwest.

Mr. Jewett last evening declined to speak of the decision.

#### THE FIRE RECORD.

A DISASTER AT CRISFIELD, MD.

CRISFIELD, Md., April 16 .- A disastrous fire broke out here about 4 o'clock this morning in the spread rapidly along Main-st., and by 7 o'clock this morning one-third of the business section of the town was destroyed. The fire was then extinguished. Seventeen stores and dwellings in all were destroyed. The loss will reach \$75,000, upon which there is an insur-ance to the amount of \$35,000.

The following is a list of those burned out : E. J. Opper,

bakery; L. D. Sturgts, restaurant; Thomas Hemings-way, dwelling; S. J. Carey, dwelling; William Leach, dwelling; A. S. Worley, silversmith; J. Booth, general dwelling: A. S. Worley, sliversmith; J. Booth, general merchandise; United States Custom House; D. W. Morgan, shoe store and dwelling; L. E. P. Dennis, store and dwelling; J. W. Milligan, hardware store and dwelling; the Wilson House; William L. Sterling, sliversmith; George Sartorins, sliversmith; G. T. Atkinson, druggist; William R. Jennig, merchant tailor; Thomas W. Dougherty, general merchandise.

The buildings were all burned to the ground, and very little of their contents saved. The origin of the fire is believed to have been incendiary, and James Booth, in whose store the fames originated, has been arrested upon a charge of arson, some evidence pointing to him as the guitty man having been found.

Later .- The Sun's dispatch from Crisfield relative to the fire at that place this morning says: "There being no fire company or fire apparatus in the town, the only way to which the citizens were able to battle with the flames was by the use of water-buckets. This proved utterly ineffectual because of the strong wind which was prevailing and the progress which the flames had made before they were discovered. So early was it when the fire broke out that none of the families residing near the greatest promptness that some of them escaped being purned to death. The fire, it is now definitely ascer. tained, began in the building of James Booth. He has been arrested and is now confined in the Crisfield lockup. His building and stock of goods are not estimated by those familiar with their value as being worth more than \$1,000 at the outside, and yet he ha within a short time procured insurance thereon of \$1,500. A hearing was had before Magistrate Horsey this morning, after his apprehension by the officer, and evidence was given that he attempted to hire one George Collins to remove his stock of goods from his storehouse last night, and when the latter refused. Booth told him not to sleep too soundly last night, else he might regret

not to sleep too soundly last night, else he might regret it before morning.

One Hall, who has been about Crisfield for the last six weeks, is alleged to have had some connection with the matter. Hall was arrested at Wostover, seventeen miles distant from Crisfield, this morning about 11 o'clock, where, it is stated, he had walked since the outbreak of the flames at 4 a. m. Numerous threats have been made of lynching Booth, but it is not now feared by the authorities that any personal violence will be attempted, as the first passionate outbreak has to some extent sub-sided.

## SMALL LOSS AT DEERFIELD, MASS.

GREENFIELD, Mass., April 16 .- An unoccupied building at Deerfield, Mass., formerly used by the John Russell Cutlery Company as a manufactory, but afternoon. The fire spread to a row of tenements across the street and three of them were destroyed, eight families being burned out. The loss on the factory is \$5,000; insurance, \$700. The loss on the tenements is \$5,000; insurance, \$500.

BARNS DESTROYED ON STATEN ISLAND. Three barns at Egbertville, near New-Dorp, S. L. were destroyed by fire on Saturday night. Two were owned by John Gaunond, whose loss is \$600. The other was owned by Sylvester Curry, whose loss is \$200. The origin of the fires is unknown.

## JOHN C. GALVIN'S FUNERAL.

STOUGHTON, Mass., April 16 .- The largest rowd that ever attended a funeral in this vicinity witnessed the burial this afternoon of John C. Galvin, whose body was refused a resting place in the Roman Catholic Cemetery by Father Keiley. Galvin was a Protestant, but his wife was a Catholic, and, with one child, was buried in a lot owned by Galvin in the Catholic Cemetery. Before he died, Galvin requested that he be laid beside his wife. He was very popular, and the action of beside his wife. He was very popular, and the action of the priest causes much indignation among all classes of the people, including a large number of Father Keiley's parishioners. No attempt was made to bury the body in the Catholic Cemetery. Galvin's friends having pur-chased a lot in Evergreen Cemetery, the remains were interred there with Masonic honors, under the auspices of the lodge of which the deceased man was a member.

#### ALLEGED CONSPIRACY TO ROB A BANK.

Washington, Penn., April 16 .- The excite ment about the savings bank continues. A capius was issued yesterday afternoon by Judge Hart, on the oath of the president of the bank, for the arrest of R. J. S. Thompson and Cashier Ruth. The complaint in the capias charges them with being in a conspiracy rob the bank, and with robbing the ARRESTED ON A REQUISITION.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., April 16.—C. Howard, of Hays City, the Sheriff of Ellis County, Kan., arrived here last night with a requisition from Governor St. will be a hearing on next Wednesday.

### TENNESSEE REPUBLICANS.

LACK OF HARMONY, AND ITS CAUSE. COMPLAINTS OF CONGRESSMEN THAT HOSTILE FED

ERAL OFFICERS ARE NOT REMOVED. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, April 16 .- "What is the political outlook in Tennessee !" asked a TRIBUNE correscondent yesterday of Congressman Moore, of the

Memphis district. "It would be better if we had harmony in our

ranks," was the reply.

"What is the trouble ?" Mr. Moore was asked. "Well, in Shelby County the difficulty is due to some of the Federal office-holders. In order that you may understand the matter I must go back dent Hayes's Southern policy, as you may remember, was an attempt to strengthen the Republican party in the South by giving a share of the Federal offices to "liberal Democrats." The appointment of ex-Senator Key to be Postmaster-General was inspired by this idea. Of course the new Postmaster-General had an ardent desire to promote the success of the policy to which he owed his own elevation, and the natural Democrats and " old line Whigs "-political nondescripts really-as Postmasters in the Southern States. One of the appointments thus made was that of Mr. Thompson, one of the Editors of The Memphis Avalanche, as Postmaster at Memphis. Mr. Thompson died of yellow fever in the epidemic of 1879. One of his bondsmen was President Davis, of the First National Bank of Memphis, who was, and is, a warm friend of Mrs. Thompson. That summer Mr. Davis was travelling in the Northwest and was thrown into company with President Hayes, who was also visiting that region. Mr. Davis suggested to the President that it would be an appropriate and kind act to appoint Mrs. Thompson to the office made vacant by the death of her husband, and upon this suggestion and without consulting any of the leading Republicans of Memphis, the President acted. Under the circumstances we made no objection, but it afterward became evident that Mrs. Thorapson was unequal to the responsibilities of the office, and an inspector who examined the office recommended a change, but nothing was done.

"After President Garfield's inauguration, I came to Washington and presented to him and to Postmaser-General James that a change would be for the best nterests of the service, and would also strengthen the Republican party in Shelby County. In the first months of Garfield's Administration three different post office inspectors carefully investigated the affairs of the Memphis office; and, after five or six weeks thus spent, all of them concurred in recommending a change. The President and Postmaster-General both thought that the office ought to be placed in new hands, but they naturally hesitated about the removal of a woman-especially whose husband died in the service; so the matter was postponed from time to time, and nothing had been done when the President was assassinated. Then, for some time after President Arthur came in, he, of course, felt averse to doing anything; and, for some reason which I am at a loss to understand, he has not yet taken any action. Now this is a long story, and you are wondering what bearing it has upon Republican prospects in Tennessee. Of course, Mrs. Thompson takes no active part in politics, but her two principal subordinates do. The Assistant Postmaster, Walter Jones, and the Chief Clerk, Lafayette Jennings, while both are nominally Republicans, are 'low credit' men.

"The only hope of Republican success in Tennessee rests on unity in favor of maintaining the credit of the State. On that issue the Democrats are hopelessly divided; and, if the Republicans boldly espouse it and stand firmly together, they will win. So far as the Republicans of my district are concerned, there would have been no doubt of their doing this had it not been for the strenuous efforts of Jones and Jennings in the opposite direction. They have been very active, and are using their influence to secure the election of delegates to the State Convention who will be, like themselves, in favor of partial repudiation. They have already broken up one local convention, and have so divided the party that two opposing delegations sent to the State Convention. They have already done a great deal of mischief, and there is danger of their doing a great deal more. Jennings, I am informed, is neglecting his duties and devoting his time to a careful and energetic canvass to prevent the election of any "State credit" delegates. The next Legislature will be close at best. Shelby County will send nine members, and they will hold the balance of power. If the Republican party there can be united in the support of State credit,' they will be able to elect a solid delegation of 'State credit' men and thus virtually to control the action upon the debt question; but, as I have explained, that cannot be done unless there shall soon be a change in the management of the

Memphis Post Office." The Tennessee Congressman evidently felt disappointed because of the failure of the President to act promptly in regard to the Memphis postmastership; but he was as evidently disinclined to express for publication his opinion as to the reasons of the

failure. Mr. Moore and the other Republican Congressmen from Tennessee have united in recomgressmen from Tennessee have united in recommending and urging the appointment as postmaster at Memphis of Charles W. Schulte, assistant cashier of the First National Bank. Mr. Schulte is an ex-Union soldier, and is said to be a gentleman of the highest respectability and standing, socially and otherwise. While Mr. Moore is inclined to be reticent, it is no secret that not only he, but most of the other Republican Congressmen from the South, are much dissatisfied because the President is not more prompt in making removals and appointments on their recommendation. Several of them have bluntly said lately that President Arthur appears to be even more anxious than President Hayes ever was to be on good terms with Southern Democratic Senators; and that, in order to secure their support for the confirmation of his nominations, he is willing to allow them virtually to control most of the Southern appointments. Some of the Republican Tennessee Congressmen have recently complained because, as they assert, the President pays much less attention to their recommendations and wishes than he does to those of Senator Islam G. Harris. Indeed, it is learned from a source which appears to be perfectly trustworthy, that President Arthur recently said in reference to the Memphis matter that he did not propose to send any nominations to the Senate that would not be confirmed, and he had been given to understand that Senator Harris would strenuously oppose the confirmation of anyone nominated for the Memphis Post Office. A Republican Congressman said, in recently the confirmation of appears of the memphis appears to be perfectly trustworthy. The confirmation of appears on the President meant to "keep an anchor out to windwari"; so that, in case of opposition from Republican Senators, he could secure the confirmation of his appointees by the aid of Democratic votes. mending and urging the appointment as postmaster

## IDENTIFICATION OF A SUICIDE.

PHILADELPHIA, April 16.-The remains of the young New Yorker who committed suicide here on Wednesday have been identified as those of Langley Bruce, a member of the firm of Braine & Bruce, insurance agents, of New-York City. The body was kept here by advice of the family until this morning, when it was sent to New-York for interment. The cause for the sent to New-Fork for interment. The deceased man called suicide is not yet apparent. The deceased man called upon an acquaintance soon after arriving here and said that he desired to obtain a position until July, when he expected to receive \$5,000. He said that his funds were cinausted, as he had lost heavily by stock speculations.

## A WOMAN'S BODY IN A COFFEE SACK.

UNION CITY, Ind., April 16.-To-day news came here that a woman's body had been found in Greenville Creek. The place is about four miles southeast from here, in Darke County, Ohio, one mile and a haif southeast of Hill Grove. An old man living here had gone to the place to fish and saw the end of a coffee sack in the water. He procured some grappling books and pulled the sack to shore. It was securely tied. He tore the sack open and was horrified to find inclosed a corpse. Dr. Commons was sum-moned by Justice Morrison and made an examination

and he pronounced it to be the body of a woman of forty five or fifty years of age, which had the appearance of having been in the water perhaps nearly all winter. The eyes and hair were all gone, while the throat had the appearance of having been cut from ear to ear. The whole matter is shrouded in mystery. No one in this vicinity has been missed and no one can conjecture who the woman was or by whom the body was placed where it was found.

#### GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

A COLONIAL SECRETARY MISSING. St. George, Bermuda, April 13.-The Colonist complains of the prolonged absence of the Colonial Secretary of Bermuda, the Hon. Randel E. Webster, who left the island on February 16 on ten days' leave and has not yet returned or been heard from. It intimates that the public works and the finances of the departments of which Mr. Webster was the head are in an unsatisfactory condition.

THE MURDERERS OF COMMANDER SELBY CONSTANTINOPLE, April 16 .- The trish of the Albanians who recently murdered Commander Selby while he was on a shooting excursion with friends near Artaki, in Asia Minor, has begun. The Public Prosecutor has asked that the sentence of the pris-oners be only fifteen years' hard labor, as the crime was committed in the heat of a struggle.

FATAL RESULT OF A DRUNKEN BRAWL. LONDON, Ont., April 16,-George Code, a broom maker, to-day shot Patrick Delargey, a pensioner, with a revolver, killing him almost instantly. The act was the result of a drunken brawl.

CITY OF MEXICO, April 16.—The heaviest "norther" of the season has been blowing at Vera Cruz during the past five days, preventing steamers landing or leaving. All business is stopped.

A RUMOR ABOUT MR. PARNELL. LONDON, April 16 .- The Observer's Dublin correspondent says he believes that Mr. Parnell on his re-turn to Kilmainbam Jail will be unconditionally

A PROPOSED INSURANCE TAX.

A BILL PENDING IN THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLA-TURE TO DOUBLE THE TAX ON FOREIGN COM.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Boston, April 16 .- The question of taxing oreign insurance companies—that is, all companies not chartered in Massachusetts—is attracting considerable attention at this time. The Journal says that at the present sess on an application was made to the Legislaof the tax they are now required to pay, it being claimed hat the present rate of 1 per cent on the gross amount of premiums was too much, as the companies were also and liable to assessment. The representatives of some of stead of giving them the relief asked for the committee relating to foreign National insurance companies, and its effect is to double the tax on that class of companies dong business in this Commonwealth. The bill passed the House without objection and without attracting the at tention of the representatives of the foreign companies but its presence in the Senate was noticed and it has been sent back to the committee, before whom on Thurs day persons interested will appear and present their views against the proposed act.

In 1873 the Legislature provided that foreign insur ess in Massachusetts, should pay a tax of 2 per cent on the gross amount of their premiums, and the same statute also provided that companies organized under any Government or State other than the United States should pay a tax of 4 per cent on the gross amount of premiums, unless such foreign companies had deposited with the Insurance Commissioner securities to the amount of \$200,000, to be at all times available for amount of \$200,000, to be at all times available for losses in risks which the companies incurred in Massachusetts, in which case they should only be required to pay a tax of 2 per cent on the gross premiums. In 1873 the law as passed did not require a deposit as a condition for foreign National companies to do business in this Commonwealth, but in 1873 another statute was passed which compelled that class of companies to make a deposit of \$200,000, and also required them to appoint trustees for the security of policy holders. Acting under this law some of the large foreign companies, besides the deposit of \$200,000, have placed in the hands of trustees, who are well-known and honorable men in Besion, sums amounting to \$4,000,000, which security is collateral to the obligation of the compan. In the face of each policy issued.

It will be claimed at the hearing on Thursday that the proposed repeal of the provisions of law referred to, with the consequent increase of tax, is an unjust discrimination against foreign insurance companies, and is the first attempt of the kind in the United States; and also that the proposed legislation does not benefit any of the Massachusetts companies, except indirectly by compelling the foreign companies to raise their rates, in which event the effect would be felt by the policy holders. It will also be shown

companies any of the Massachusetts companies, ex-ept indirectly by compelling the foreign companies to raise their rates, in which event the effect would be felt by the policy holders. It will also be shown that there never has been an instance when the foreign National companies have not paid their policies in full, not even after the great fire in Boston in 1872, when the home companies paid an average of thirty-six cents on the dollar.

#### LIGHTS IN THE SKY.

An arc of brilliant light spanning the horizon from the north to the west at about 10 o'clock last night was phenomenal because of the lateness of the season The altitude of the central portion of the arc, of the Northern Streamers (Aurora Borealis), was about ten degrees. The colors, from brown to violet, were more briliant than are usually seen in the temperate zone, and resembled very much the aurora seen in the Arctic regions in August and September. Above the arcthe stars shone brilliantly, but below it they were seen as through a thick fog. Toward midnight, the lights changed their formation and at times seemed to shoot up in rays. When they appear in the late winter or early spring, they are

times seemed to shoot up in rays. When they appear in the late winter or early spring, they are generally the forerunners of colder weather.

Soon after midnight the sky presented a magnin cent appearance. The display became corruscated, and shortly before 1 a. m. the nucleus was directly. in the zenith, Thecity seemed enveloped in a cirrus of vertical fibres, more or less wavy, reaching from the the horizon to the zenith. A large number of people stood on the pavements or in the parks, and others leaned out of the windows witnessing the grand display. The aurora was also accompanied by marked disturbances both in the direction of force and terrestrial magnetism At the Western Union Telegraph office display. The aurora was also accompanied by marked disturbances both in the direction of force and terrestrial magnetism. At the Western Union Telegraph office it was stated that these disturbances were first felt about 10:30 p. m., and at midnight the effect was serious, the wires at all points being obstructed. It was stated also that, with the exception of the cables to the northward, the telegraph had not been affected by the aurora before for more than a year. At 1 a. m. the waves of the aurora began to dissipate, but the scenes in the heavens continued brilliant with the varied tints and colors.

THE DISPLAY AT BALTIMORE. BALTIMORE, April 16.-The display of auroral lights to night is unusually brilliant, extending from the horizon to the zenith and covering almost the entire northern bemisphere.

CARMINE, BLUE AND WHITE. POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., April 16 .- There was splendid display of aurora borealis to-night. The shafts ran from the northern horizon to the zenith, and

#### DYING FROM HIS INJURIES.

TROY, April 16 .- John Labander, the victim of the religious quarrel with Conrad Brighout at East Poestenkill on April 8, died to-day. Brightout is in the Troy Jail, and will be tried on the charge of manslaughter. The defence claims that Labander's death was due to kinney disease and not to injuries inflicted by the prisoner. The Coroner and District-Attorney are investi-

THE SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION CASES.

CHARLESTON, S. C., April 16 .- It is generally believed to-day that the verdict in the Acton election cases is that the defendants are guilty as to so much tion cases is that the decidants are garry at them with refusing to allow the United States Supervisor to inspect the ballot-box, and that they are recommended to mercy. There were eight counts in the indictment.

Later—The scaled verdict will not be opened until to morrow, but it is known unofficially that the defendants are found guilty on the obstruction count and not guilty on all the other counts, and are recommended to mercy.

#### A CONGRESSMAN RENOMINATED.

Indianapolis, April 16.-The Republican Congressional Convention, held in this city yesterday, nominated Stanton J. Peelle for reelection.

### A RUSSIAN OUTRAGE.

PRICE FOUR CENTS.

INOFFENSIVE SEAMEN MURDERED

THE HELPLESS CREW OF A SEALING-VESSEL FIRED UPON IN THE NORTH PACIFIC-THREE MEN KILLED AND SEVERAL OTHERS WOUNDED-THE CARGO CONFISCATED-TRUMPERY EXCUSES FOR THE OUTRAGE-SOME POINTS OF INTERNATIONAL FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

YOKOHAMA, Feb. 20.-During the last few

weeks of 1881 there appeared by direction of the

Russian Consul in the local English papers here a

notice forbidding foreign vessels, on and after Jan-

uary 1, 1882, to engage in trading, hunting or fish

ing on the Russian coast or islands in Okhotsk and

Behring Seas, without special license from the Governor of Eastern Siberia at Vladivostock, under

cenalty of confiscation of both vessels and cargoes.

But no license or permit of any sort would be given to hunt, fish or trade among the Commodore and Robben Islands. The notice was signed by the Consul, A. Pelikan, and dated, "Yokohama, November 15, 1881." This date was given, apparently, to cover, if possible, the responsibility for an unprecedented outrage, perpetrated by islanders, whom Russia claims as her subjects, upon the crew of a vessel returning from a campaign among the fur scals and other animals of the sub-Polar Pacific. The schooner Diana on her way south had the misfor tune to put in at Medni, or Copper Island, one of the "Commodore" group, referred to in Consul Pelikan's mandate. She was under the protection of the United States flag ; Mr. Peterson, her captain, is a German; and her crew is composed in part of Germans and Japanese. Thus there are at least three Powers concerned. On his way toward Yokohama, after a successful cruise, Captain Petersen came in sight of Copper Island. As he was in need of a replenishment of wood and fresh water, he anchored as close as possible to the shore, and in view and easy access of a watercourse and wellforested slopes. He manned three boats, in which were water-butts to be filled and tools for felling and cutting timber. These movements were watched from the shore: and no sooner was a landing effected than a murderous fire was opened and sustained from cover by some twenty or thirty rifles. Three Japanese fell dead on the beach, and two Europeans were severely wounded-one, a man semed Schmidt, taking away with him no less than eight bullets, while a comrade, also a German was pierced by two. The first officer maintained Ascipline in his own boat, into which he got his wounded, and then gave the order to shove off, which was obeyed under a galling fire. The men of the other two boats also hastened off, and thus the ship was reached. Against her now were directed the missiles from the shore; and she was struck in many places. Captain Petersen meanwhile got his men on board, weighed anchor, and sailed out of range. He had been flying the American ensign the whole time; and he now hoisted the distress flag at the main, and signalled the shore for assistance for the hurt, with a request that the Governor would come off and visit his vessel. These demands remaining totally disregarded, he did the best he could himself for the sufferers, and sailed away toward Petropaulofiski, in the Bay of Kamehatka. On her way the Diana encountered the Sea Lion, another schooner also on her homeward voyage, whose commander rendered assistance and reported the matter on his arrival here.

in the hospital of their own nationality at Nogé, a suburb of Yokohama. When the Diana arrived at Petropsulofiski, the captain reported what had occurred to the Governor, who treated him with gical assistance for the wounded; at the same time informing him that his cargo of skins would be confiscated, as they had been taken on Russian territory. Captain Petersen again related his experience at Copper Island, stated why he had called there, and asseverated that neither there nor on any Russian possession had he taken a single skin. All was in vain. The Governor's threat was executed. He sent a file of Cossacks with loaded rifles and fixed bayonets on board. These iren so thor oughly ransacked and rummaged the vessel that they did not leave a single piece of peltry. After this the Diana was released from the embargo in which she had been placed, and the master was told that he could sail whither he would, after being warned that even his craft was liable to sequestration, and told that that would be her fate and that of any other ship trespassing for the purpose of hunting or fishing on Russian shores or in Russian waters. And so the Diana came on to Yokohama, less several of her crew butchered in cold blood and others maimed for life or seriously wounded, and her cargo, the fruit of long months of industry, exposure and peril, deliberately stolen by the order of a Russian officer. The United States Consul-General was of course highly incensed with the affair, which he represented in its strongest lightthe light of fact-to his Government; and he hopes

So much for the original outrage. The two

wounded Europeans were placed in the General Hospital of Yokohama, where their injuries speak

for themselves, and where they have been seen by

the writer. I fear that Schmidt must be a cripple

for life. The wounded Japanese have been treated

General was of course highly incensed with the affair, which he represented in its strongest light—the light of fact—to his Government; and he hopes to bring, if he has not already brought, the representative of Germany and the Tokio Government to join his own Minister in a peremptory protest and demand for apology and compensation.

The action of the Russian Consul has ocen peculiar, and yet, perhaps, what might have been expected. Acting under instructions, he affirms that the mariners were freepassing on Copper Island and stealing fur seals when they were fired upon; that the assault was provoked; and that the confiscation of the seal-skins was just and proper, while the authorities at Petropaulofisk; would have been within their right in sequestrating the schooner. Thus American readers will have no difficulty in connecting this officer's notification with the Diana affair. The document was made public after news of the entrage had been received here. No doubt it had been previously published among the islands of the Pacific; and though the licensing rules were not to be enforced until January 1, yet the petty local officials of Medni or Copper Island saw it to give them a retrospective action, and chose to consider their visitors as intruders and trespassers, to be fired upon without rath and without warning. Copper Island is not, certainly, in the condition of Robben Island, a territory right to which may be disputed, as mentioned in the account of Captain P. Hodnett's circumnavigation of Yesso. It is indisputably Russian. But, according to all the principles of international law, to say nothing of international good-will, any vessel in need of the necessaries wherewith to pursue her voyage is entitled to demand relief in the ports of any Power with which ist own country is at peace and on terms of diplomatic friendship. That notification which served as a text for this letter says: "The enforcement of the above will be intrusted to Russian men of-war and also to Russian merchantmen, which for that purpos

YACHT ZEPHYR, OFF ROBBEN ISLAND, Sept. 17, 1881. Sept. 17, 1881.

Size. With reference to the interview that I had with you to-day, you informed me that you were "doing police duty"—in a word, you were blockading Robben

you to-day, you informed me that lice duty "—in a word, you were blockading Robben Isliand. If the first place, I beg to inform you that Robben Island is in disputed territory, and, in the next, that it is something new in the history of nations for a merchant vessel to establish a blockade.

Even is time of war, I deny your suthority.
Bear in mind, I asked to see your commission from the Emperor of Russia, and you could only produce a piece of paper from some pairty officer, which is no good under any circumstances, and is no more nor less than a downright imposition. As Japan and England are at peace with Russia, I shall land in any part of the Russian Emuire I please, and particularly on Robbes